

Born in Fairfield, Alabama, Pastor Binion eventually moved to Los Angeles, California where he later met his wife, Valerie. He is a graduate of Susan Miller Dorsey High School in Los Angeles, California State University, Los Angeles (UCLA) with a Bachelor's Degree in History, Fuller Theological Seminary with a Master's Degree in Divinity, and was conferred the Doctor of Divinity by the Southern California School of Ministry.

Following his education, Pastor Binion moved to Fresno, California, becoming the Senior Pastor of Westside Church of God. One year later, he married the love of his life, Valerie Jean Metoyer, who continued her education in the Central Valley. Lady Binion is a graduate of Fresno Pacific University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management and Organization Development, and served our community as an employee of Fresno Unified School District until retiring in 2013.

Pastor Binion and Lady Binion have dedicated their lives to serving our Valley with a passion for serving the Lord and bettering the community. Pastor Binion is known for being a Pastor of Pastors, advising numerous individuals, ministries, and organizations in our city and throughout the Central Valley. He has been a member of various community organizations dedicated to improving our community, including West Fresno Ministerial Alliance, West Fresno Healthcare Coalition, City of Fresno Police Advisory Council, and the Central California Prison Fellowship, to name a few. He is also the founder and chairman of Southwest Fresno Development Corporation; an organization dedicated to promoting economic development in West Fresno.

Lady Binion has spent the last 38 years serving Westside Church alongside her husband, assisting him in ministry and serving as the Minister of Music and Worship Arts. Like her husband, she has also served with several organizations for the betterment of our community, including Bringing Broken Neighborhoods Back to Life, Feed Fresno Food Giveaways, and the West Fresno Ministerial Alliance, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pastor Binion and Lady Binion, whose passion, kind hearts, and selfless service have made an instrumental impact on the lives of those in our Central Valley communities. I join the community in honoring Pastor Lawrence Binion Sr. and First Lady Valerie Jean Metoyer Binion for their contributions and devotion to our community.

HONORING MRS. LOUIS SMITH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a resourceful and ambitious mother, Mrs. Louise Smith. Mrs. Smith has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to live a productive life.

Louise Smith was born on February 21, 1925 in Laurel, Mississippi.

Mrs. Smith married Samuel Smith on March 10, 1946 and together they had 11 children, 5 boys and 6 girls. They moved to Yazoo City, Mississippi in the 1950s. When the youngest

child was enrolled in kindergarten, Mrs. Smith enrolled in beauty school and later received her license to become a hairstylist. She and her good friend, Dorothy Casey, co-owned a beauty salon in downtown Yazoo City which opened in early 1970s and remained open for over 30 years. When you stopped by to get your hair done, you not only received a great hair styling, but you also got many words of wisdom with a little gospel to lift up your spirits until the next time you came.

Mrs. Smith was once a member of Chapel Hill Baptist Church on Brickyard Hill in Yazoo City with her husband and children. There she and several other women met and formed a gospel group known as the Gospel Carolettes. Her husband sang with them as well. The Gospel Carolettes not only sang in Church but at various Christian events spreading the news of the gospel. They also sang on the radio station WAZF each Sunday morning.

Mrs. Smith left Chapel Hill Baptist Church with her husband and children to become a member of New Zion Baptist Church where her son, Rev. Willie E. Smith, is the pastor. There she, not only served as a Mother of the church, but also works with the Mission women. Mother Smith taught Sunday School and sang in the choir at New Zion.

Mrs. Smith has been a mother and/or grandmother figure to many in the church and in her neighborhood; always welcoming others into her home, which has always displayed an array of beautiful flowers in the yard and many green plants indoors for comfort, decoration and fresh air. Louise enjoys gardening and preparing dinner with vegetables from her garden on Sundays for her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and any other visitors from the community.

Mrs. Smith has pushed to be a role model not only for her children and grandchildren, but to all in her community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Louise Smith for her dedication for change and serving her community.

REMEMBERING THE USS "STARK" INCIDENT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 30th Anniversary of the tragic attack on the USS *Stark* during the Iran-Iraq War. On May 17, 1987, the USS *Stark* was on patrol in the Arabian Gulf when an Iraqi aircraft fired two missiles at the frigate without warning. The attack and resulting fire killed 37 military personnel and wounded 21 others. The brave crew fought the fire throughout the night and managed to save the ship.

I would like to recognize the heroism of the service members who served on the USS *Stark*, including Mr. Luther James Padgett of Gaston, South Carolina, a member of the HSL-32 Squadron. A proud Navy man, he served his country from 1977 to 1995. I am grateful for his admirable service.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL NURSING HOME WEEK 2017

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize the National Nursing Home Week, May 14th to 20th, and recognize our Veterans at the Community Living Center (CLC) at the Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System (CAVHCS).

The American Health Care Association established the National Nursing Home Week in 1967 and this year's theme is "The Spirit of America."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this special week and thanking all of our Veterans in Alabama.

HONORING THE WASHINGTON IRELAND PROGRAM AND CLAUDIA AND TOM CORCORAN

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Washington Ireland Program which works every day to support leaders committed to building a future of peace and prosperity for Northern Ireland and Ireland. For over two decades, the Washington Ireland Program has played an important role in post-conflict Ireland by bringing together young leaders from a wide range of communities and backgrounds for an outstanding leadership and skills-development program.

Specifically, I'd like to highlight the work of Claudia and Tom Corcoran who have a deep and steadfast commitment to Ireland and its young people. They believe in providing opportunities for people to experience life changing perspectives and opportunities. The Washington Ireland Program's impact today can be attributed to Claudia and Tom's early and effective advocacy. They have been involved in setting up opportunities for young people from the United States to participate in exchange programs to Ireland, in which both countries benefit from these programs to foster transatlantic relations and deeper understanding between our two countries.

Claudia's clear passion for students and background as an educator is evident through her deep involvement and leadership on the Washington Ireland Program Board of Directors. Originally from Ireland, Tom is exemplary of the American Dream. At age 13, Tom emigrated by himself to the United States from County Caven Ireland, where he was born and his siblings and parents still remain. He is now quite successful as President at Corcoran Enterprises and serves as a Senior Advisor in the Aerospace and Defense Sector at The Carlyle Group where he assists in developing strategy and identifying investments in the aerospace and defense sector.

Tom believes in America as the "land of opportunity." Both Tom and Claudia are focused on paying their successes forward and creating opportunities for others who come behind them, bettering the lives of young people